

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 01318 01 OF 02 251531Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /101 W
-----251612Z 038401 /41

P R 251516Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9833
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01318

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS ON GENEVA TALKS, JANUARY 25

1. IAN SMITH'S REJECTION OF BRITAIN'S PLANS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA IS THE FRONT PAGE LEAD IN MOST PAPERS. THE POINT FROM HIS BROADCAST WHICH THE PAPERS EMPHASIZE IS THAT HE REGARDS THE BRITISH PROPOSALS AS A SELL-OUT TO THE MARXISTS. MR. IVOR RICHARD'S STATEMENT THAT HE COULD SEE NO VIRTUE IN RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS ALSO PROMINENTLY REPORTED. THE SERIOUS DAILIES ALL CARRY EDITORIALS.

2. TIMES DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT DAVID SPANIER: "THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 01318 01 OF 02 251531Z

ATTITUDES OF THE VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS HAD BECOME FAR TOO SET AND SUSPICIOUS TO ALLOW A LAST-MINUTE BEAM OF COMMON SENSE TO BREAK THROUGH. THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM SHOULD HAVE BEEN TACKLED MORE COMPREHENSIVELY AND MORE IMAGINATIVELY IN THE PAST DECADE. AND FOR THIS FAILURE BRITAIN AND EVERYONE ELSE SHARES THE BLAME.
FOR THE FUTURE, ALL IS NOT LOST. IT MAY BE THAT THE

NEW AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. VANCE, CAN PICK UP THE PIECES AND FOLLOW DR. KISSINGER'S TRAIL TO PRETORIA. MR. VORSTER IS SAID TO WANT A SETTLEMENT, AND MR. SMITH HAS CONCEDED THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE. BUT THIS PROSPECT IS NOT, AT THIS POINT, MORE THAN A DIM HOPE."

3. TIMES EDITORIAL: "BEFORE HE BECAME PRESIDENT, MR. JIMMY CARTER CAME OUT, IN ACCORD WITH HIS ELECTORAL POSITION, WHOLEHEARTEDLY FOR DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY RULE--BLACK GOVERNMENTS--THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA. THIS MEANS THAT HE HAS NOTHING MUCH TO OFFER MR. VORSTER IN EXCHANGE FOR SACRIFICING THE RHODESIANS--A CARD DR. KISSINGER KEPT IN HIS HAND FOR WHAT IT WAS WORTH. IN HIS DIPLOMACY THE PROSPECT THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD REGARD SOUTH AFRICA AS 'DIFFERENT' IN ITS EVOLUTION TOWARDS RACIAL JUSTICE AS DISTINCT FROM RHODESIA OR NAMIBIA WAS PRESERVED. NOW MR. VORSTER SEEMS TO HAVE TO CHOOSE ONLY BETWEEN BLACK RULE AND WAR WITH THE MARXISTS. DR. KISSINGER IS ALSO BELIEVED TO HAVE THREATENED A CONCERTED OIL EMBARGO. BUT MR. CARTER INDICATED IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD AVOID INITIATIVES TO ENFORCE CHANGE UNILATERALLY IN THE WORLD, SO THAT ANY SUCH FORCEFUL UNDERCOVER DIPLOMACY IS RULED OUT. HE HAS THROWN AWAY BOTH STICK AND CARROT. THERE IS THUS NO REASON NOW WHY THE SOUTH AFRICANS SHOULD NOT GIVE THE RHODESIANS THE MINIMUM SUPPORT--FUEL AND AMMUNITION--TO ENABLE THEM TO FIGHT ON.... ON THIS OCCASION, THE BLAME CAN BE PLACED ON AFRICAN MISMANAGEMENT. BY FAILING TO PRESENT A UNITED FRONT IN GENEVA, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 01318 01 OF 02 251531Z

THEY GAVE THE SMITH REGIME TIME TO RECOVER FROM HIS SEPTEMBER SHOCK (FROM KISSINGER)."

4. GUARDIAN EDITORIAL: "WHAT, THEN, HAS NOW BECOME OF THE 'PRESSURE' WHICH SOUTH AFRICA WAS SUPPOSED TO EXERT ON MR. SMITH?.... THE COLLAPSE OF YET ANOTHER PAINSTAKING ATTEMPT AT SETTLEMENT HASTENS AND MAGNIFIES THE PROSPECT OF WAR. WHETHER RHODESIA'S TIME LIMIT IS THREE MONTHS OR THREE YEARS MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE TO THE UGLY END WHICH AGAIN LOOKS INEVITABLE."

5. FINANCIAL TIMES EDITORIAL: "WITH THE FAILURE OF THE RICHARD MISSION, THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN NOW BRING MR. SMITH BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE IS MR. JOHANNES VORSTER, THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER, SINCE HIS GOVERNMENT COULD EXERT A STRANGLEHOLD ON RHODESIA'S MAJOR SUPPLY LINES. MR. SMITH MAY BELIEVE THAT, BY STICKING CONSISTENTLY IF RIGIDLY TO THE KISSINGER PACKAGE, HE CAN ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN

OPINION; HE MAY EVEN BELIEVE THAT SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT
LEND HIM MILITARY SUPPORT. ONE CANNOT, OF COURSE, RULE
OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A RUSH OF SYMPATHY AMONG WHITE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 01318 02 OF 02 251537Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /101 W
-----251610Z 038535 /40

P R 251516Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9834
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 01318

SOUTH AFRICANS FOR THEIR RHODESIAN NEIGHBORS, THOUGH IT
WOULD SEEM TO BE IRRATIONAL OF MR. VORSTER TO ADD THE
PROBLEMS OF A GUERRILLA WAR IN RHODESIA TO THE ALREADY
SERIOUS DOMESTIC POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES INSIDE SOUTH
AFRICA. BUT WHATEVER MR. SMITH'S HOPES, IT IS DIFFICULT
TO IMAGINE THAT THEY WILL PROTECT HIM FROM THE CONSE-
QUENCES OF REFUSING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT."

6. DAILY TELEGRAPH EDITORIAL: "IN TALKING ABOUT THE
KISSINGER 'PACKAGE' ACCEPTED BY MR. SMITH LAST SEPTEMBER,

IGNORE ITS MOST IMPORTANT PROMISE--MAJORITY RULE FOR
RHODESIA WITHIN TWO YEARS. GRANTED THAT ALL-IMPORTANT
CONCESSION, IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT MR. SMITH AND OTHER

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 01318 02 OF 02 251537Z

WHITES IN RHODESIA WOULD INSIST ON LEADING ROLES DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. THIS WAS ALLOWED FOR IN THE PACKAGE. THE BRITISH PROPOSALS TOUTED ROUND BY MR. RICHARD HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY MR. SMITH BECAUSE THEY MAKE NO SUCH ALLOWANCE. MR. CROSLAND YESTERDAY APPEALED TO MR. SMITH 'NOT TO CLOSE THE DOOR IRREVOCABLY.' BUT MR. SMITH HAS CLOSED NO DOOR EXCEPT THE ONE WHICH WOULD LEAD TO 'CHAOS'. THE DOOR TO REFORM IS OPEN, AND IT IS HE, NOT MR. RICHARD, WHO LOOKS LIKELY TO GO THROUGH IT."

ARMSTRONG

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON01318
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770026-1173
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770121/aaaaasgn.tel
Line Count: 187
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5c749ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3512791
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH PRESS ON GENEVA TALKS, JANUARY 25
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5c749ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009